UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

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*UNITED STATES OF AMERICA *
* CRIMINAL ACTION
v. * No. 08-10071-RGS
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BRIMA WURIE *
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BEFORE THE HONORABLE RICHARD G. STEARNS
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
STATUS CONFERENCE
February 16, 2010

APPEARANCES:

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, (By Special Assistant United States Attorney Gretchen Lundgren and AUSA John A. Wortmann, Jr.,) 1 Courthouse Way, Suite 9000, Boston, Massachusetts 02210, on behalf of the United States of America

LAW OFFICES OF JOHN BENZAN, (By John Benzan, Esq.) Suite 8, P.O. Box 620667, Newton Lower Falls, Massachusetts 02462, on behalf of Defendant

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P R O C E E D I N G S

THE CLERK: All rise for the Honorable Court. Court is open. You may be seated.

The case before this Court carries Case No. 08-10071, united States of America versus Brima Wurie.

Counsel, please identify yourselves for the record.

MS. LUNDGREN: Good afternoon, your Honor. Gretchen Lundgren for the United States, and with me is John Wortmann.

MR. BENZAN: Good afternoon, your Honor. On behalf of Mr. Wurie, John Benzan.

THE COURT: All right. The case is here for a pretrial conference and assignment.

Is everybody ready for trial?

MS. LUNDGREN: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: Mr. Benzan?

MR. BENZAN: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: I have a case before a jury currently underway, which will probably not conclude until next Tuesday or Wednesday. So we have two options. We can impanel on Monday, bring the jury back on Wednesday or Thursday.

Do we think we can try the case in five days --

MS. LUNDGREN: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: -- because I will be leaving the following Wednesday. So we would have to compress things into as close a time as we can. But that's one alternative.

The other alternative is the next available set of dates is April. The entire month of April is open. So I will give counsel a choice in that respect.

MS. LUNDGREN: Your Honor, given the stipulations I have discussed with defense counsel, I think that we'd be able to boil down the witness testimony to about three days. So I think that we would be able to fit within the Court's schedule, impaneling on Monday, and then coming back Wednesday or Thursday to begin the trial.

THE COURT: Okay. As long as you're confident you can finish. It doesn't mean that the jury can't be sent home for a week, but that's not really a terribly good practice if we can avoid it.

MS. LUNDGREN: Certainly.

THE COURT: All right.

So we impanel -- I want to say first thing Monday, but that's not practical because it takes a while for the jurors to be processed. But I need counsel to be here at 9:00 on Monday ready for trial.

I have not received any of the pretrial papers or submissions as yet.

MS. LUNDGREN: Your Honor, previously the government did file motions in limine when we had our August trial date, and then yesterday I filed an exhibit list, a witness list, and voir dire questions.

THE COURT: That didn't make it to me then as yet.

Mr. Benzan, do I have anything from you?

MR. BENZAN: Not yet, your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. Well, it doesn't do us much good to plan a trial without all of the submissions here.

My suggestion is that we do a formal conference Friday afternoon in anticipation of Monday. I would normally do it Monday, but I don't want to take time away from the jury that's presently sitting. So I would rather we be ready the first available opportunity on Monday morning to go forward.

So would you, counsel, discuss with Terri a time Friday afternoon, any time from one o'clock on, and I don't think it will take us more than 45 minutes. But, Mr. Benzan, I've got to have your submissions before then.

MR. BENZAN: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: Okay.

All right, so meet with Terri, pick a Friday afternoon time for the pretrial conference and be ready to go Monday morning with the impanelment.

Maybe the case presently will move a little bit faster than counsel anticipate. If it does, we might even be able to get started Tuesday.

THE CLERK: All rise.

(Proceedings adjourned.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, James P. Gibbons, Official Court Reporter for the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts, do hereby certify that the foregoing pages are a true and accurate transcription of my shorthand notes taken in the aforementioned matter.

/s/James P. Gibbons   October 22, 2010

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